

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01

INT-05 /076 W

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R 112235Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4248

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, PE, MX

SUBJ: VISIT OF MEXICAN MINISTER OF NATIONAL PATRIMONY

REF: MEXICO 1735

1. LIMA PRESS REPORTS THAT MEXICAN MINISTER OF NATIONAL PATRIMONY, FRANCISCO JAVIER ALEJO, MET ON MARCH 7 WITH GOP OFFICIALS INCLUDING FONMIN AND MINMINES. LATER IN DAY, PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, HE MET WITH NEWSMEN. ACCORDING TO PRESS, ALEJO SEES LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA) AS "GENUINELY LATIN AMERICAN FORUM OPEN TO ALL COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, INCLUDING CUBA." (COMMENT: ALEJO IS NOT REPORTED AS SAYING THAT U.S. WOULD BE EXCLUDED.) HE INDICATED THAT OPINION IN LATIN AMERICA IS FAVORABLE AT THE PRESENT TIME TO CREATION OF THIS ORGANIZATION. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENTS OF MEXICO AND VENEZUELA WILL MEET BETWEEN MARCH 17 AND 22 TO FIX DATE AND PLACE OF MEETING OF LA PRESIDENTS TO CREATE SELA. MEXICAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL IN LIMA IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT SELA WAS BORN IN LIMA LAST JULY WHEN VISITING MEXICAN PRESIDENT

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ECHEVERRIA PROPOSED IDEA TO PRESIDENT VELASCO. VELASCO

REPORTEDLY WAS ENTHUSIASTIC.

2. ON MARCY 10, GOP-OWNED LA CRONICA EDITORIALIZED ON ALEJO'S VISIT AND SELA. IT SAID SELA WAS EVIDENCE OF LATIN AMERICAN "REBIRTH." "NEVER BEFORE HAVE THE COUNTRIES SOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE PRODUCED SUCH AGREEMENT ON THEMES THAT ARE OF VITAL INTEREST TO THE CONTINENT. NEVER BEFORE HAVE THE OLD METHODS OF NORTH AMERICAN HEGEMONY BEEN REJECTED SO UNANIMOUSLY." VISIT OF ALEJO, IT SAYS, SHOULD BE VIEWED IN THIS CONTEXT. IT CONTINUED THAT THE ENORMOUS INEQUALITY WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE U.S. AND FACT THAT LAS IS USUALLY DIVIDED CAUSED INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS TO BE "A FICTION IN WHICH DEPENDENCE AND ITS INEVITABLE SEQUEL, UNDERDEVELOPMENT, PREDOMINATED." TO OVERCOME THIS, IT GOES ON, A GROWING NUMBER OF LA COJTRIES ARE INTEGRATING THEIR STRATEGIES WITHIN PARAMETERS OF "A THIRD WORLD OFFENSIVE DESTINED TO END THE HEGEMONY (IN LA) OF WORLD POWERS." IT SAYS THAT ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IS FORCE WHICH WILL BREAK "DOMINATION IN WHICH (LA) REMAINED ENCLOSED FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY..."

3. ALEJO ALSO INDICATED THAT POSSIBILITY IS BEING STUDIED OF CREATING SILVER PRODUCERS' CARTEL WHICH WOULD INCLUDE MEXICO, PERU, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND UNNAMED AFRICAN COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT MEXICAN EXPERTS WOULD VISIT PERU IN APRIL TO PRESENT INITIAL PLAN FOR CARTEL. HE SAID CARTEL IS NECESSARY "TO COMBAT MANEUVERS, SUCH AS THOSE THE U.S. INTENDS TO CARY OUT (SELLING OF SURPLUS STOCKPILE SILVER) WHICH WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS WITH EXPORTERS OF THAT METAL (BY REDUCING WORLD PRICE LEVEL." THIS "WOULD BE ONE ACTION MORE BY THE U.S. AGAINST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES." PRESS ALSO STATED THAT ONE OTHER TPIC OF INTEREST WAS POSSIBILITY OF MEXICO JOINING CIPEC, COPPER PRODUCERS' CARTEL.

4. COMMENT: AS IS THE CASE WITH NUMEROUS THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC INITIATIVES, GOP OFTEN LETS THE FOREIGN VISITOR WHO INITIATES SUCH PROPOSALS CARRY THE BALL WITH LOCAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESS AND MERELY, AS IN THIS CASE, ACQUIESCES IN FOREIGNER'S STATEMENTS. WHILE CONCEPT OF SELA CERTAINLY FALLS WITHIN PARAMETERS OF PERU'S FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE GOP HAS NOT MADE ANY CONCRETE PROPOSALS AND, WE PRESUME, WILL TEND TO FOLLOW LEAD OF MEXICO AND VENEZUELA IN THIS MATTER, AT LEAST IN FIRST STAGES. MINISTRY OF MINES HAS THEORETICAL INTEREST IN ORGANIZING A SILVER CARTEL

ALTHOUGH, ONCE AGAIN, WHETHER ANY PRACTICAL PROPOSALS  
HAVE YET BEEN WORKED OUT REMAINS DOUBTFUL. ON THIS ISSUE  
AS WELL AS SELA, MEXICO APPEARS TO BE SOMEWHAT OUT IN FRONT OF  
PERU.  
DEAN

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